

FEB 26 1961

Approved For Release 2005/01/05 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700160013-7

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mort Sahl, a dark, fiercely incisive young man, is best known for making serious jokes about politics and world affairs. A so-called beatnik comedian, Sahl started out at the hungry i night club in San Francisco at \$5 a week, soon caught on, and is currently regarded as one of the leading topical monologists in the country. He was born in Montreal in 1927, raised in Los Angeles, and graduated from the University of Southern California in 1950. He appears in smart supper clubs throughout the nation garbed in collegiate sweater and open-collar shirt, with a rolled-up newspaper his only prop. Here are some of Sahl's favorite lines:

## My favorite jokes

by MORT SAHL

I'M BACK IN HOLLYWOOD where two people marry secretly whether anyone cares or not.

**DEFINITION OF A PHILOSOPHER:** a man who would be in jail if he were a politician.

I HEARD AN interesting definition of the New York Times. A friend of mine calls it — — the official leak of the State Department.

AT ELECTION TIME the important question was not who was going to be the next President. It was whether we'd be around to vote.

A JAZZ ROOM is a night spot where the house trio is no longer addicted to Cole Porter.

THE BACKBONE OF TELEVISION is hope, the "something-might-happen" philosophy. Nine-thirty was dull. Right? Right. Well, maybe 10 will be better. It's more than faith in the future—it's almost theology.

PEOPLE ACCUSE ME of being an intellectual. It is interesting that in the seven years I was at the University of California, no one called me that.

THE MANIA for mathematics has even spread to the restaurant business. You go into a cubicle that features 96 sandwiches. You choose bacon and tomato. "Order by number," the waiter commands you, so upon consulting the menu you say, "42." Whereupon the waiter consults the menu and asks, "What's 42? . . . Oh, yes, bacon and tomato."

A COFFEE HOUSE is a place where people drink coffee and wait for the beat generation to come in . . . You can tell if it's a real coffee house because if it is, there will be a lengthy calendar of entertainment on the wall—everything from poetry and jazz to bomb tests.

### SAHL'S OBSERVATIONS:

**The H-bomb:** There's no appreciable increase in radioactivity, but don't plan a large family.

**Cape Canaveral:** Disneyland East.

**Socialized medicine:** A dangerous trend toward health.

**Sex:** There's no use discussing what you can't document.

**Psychoanalysis:** Psychoanalysts aren't like other doctors. If you're not relating to them, they'll gladly refer you to another doctor. They call this rehabilitation referral motivation therapy. We call it fee-splitting.

**Dogs:** My dog is affectionate and brings the newspaper in his mouth, but the Russian dogs are all engineers.

**Holidays:** The new national holiday is Beat Wednesday, when all the people in coffee houses go to work for one day.

**THE ATTRACTION OF PRISON** as opposed to life: knowing when you're getting out.

**THE U.S.A.** has two admitted spies—Nathan Hale and Francis Powers. But there's a slight difference in the morality of these two men. When Hale was caught, he uttered these immortal words: "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country." But Powers is cut out of different cloth. When his U-2 was forced down, he said, "This shatters all my plans." ■